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A

SOVEREIGN REMEDY

FOR THE

DROPSY.

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SOVEREIGN REMEDY

FOR THE

DROPSY.

TAKE of Broom-Seed, well powdered and ſifted, one drachm; let it ſteep twelve hours in a glaſs and half of good rich white-wine, and take it in the morning faſting, having firſt ſhaken it, ſo that the whole may be ſwallowed. Walk after it, if you are able, or uſe what exerciſe you can without fatigue, for an hour and half; after which you muſt be ſure to take two ounces of Olive-oil; and you muſt not eat or drink any thing in leſs than half an hour or an hour after taking the Oil. Repeat this every

other day, or once in three days, and not oftener, till cured; and do not let blood, or uſe any other remedy during the courſe.

NOTHING can be more gentle and ſafe than the operation of this Remedy, and it often has little or no ſenſible one. If the Dropſy is in the body, it diſcharges it by urine, without any inconvenience; if it is between the ſkin and fleſh, it cauſes bliſters to ariſe on the legs, by which it will run off; but this does not happen to more than one in thirty; and in this caſe no plaſters muſt be uſed, for they would hinder the diſcharge; but you muſt apply red cabbage-leaves. If the diſorder is cauſed by wind, it diſpels the phlegm that detains the wind. It cures the Dropſy in pregnant women, without injury to the mother or the infant. It alſo cures the Aſthma, Conſumption, and Diſorders of the Liver. It is good for the Bleeding at the Noſe, and for venomous Bites and Poiſons.

THE efficacy of the above remedy has been proved by the cure of upwards of fifty dropſical women with child, and by that of more than three hundred other people.

OBSERVATIONS.

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THE foregoing Recipe was, many years ago, given to an Engliſh Counteſs by the then Prior of the Maurus Benedictines, of Corbie, in Picardy, with the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of its efficacy. About eighteen years ſince, her ladyſhip gave it to a lady in England, whom ſhe honoured with her friendſhip; and who in the year 1767 recommended it to a lady, who ſeemed to be in, or nearly in, the laſt ſtage of a Dropſy. She was ſo very much ſwoln, that ſhe appeared like a woman in the laſt month of her pregnancy, and her diſorder had reſiſted every thing that had been done for her by the faculty. She took the Broom-Seed, but could not take the whole of the Oil; however, in a very few months, her huſband wrote a letter of thanks for her ſpeedy and ſurprizing recovery.

Soon after, the report of this extraordinary cure induced another lady, who was afflicted with a Dropſy, to make trial of the remedy. She was not ſo much ſwoln as the former lady, but ſhe was exceedingly emaciated, and was ſo weak, that ſhe was carried like an infant into her carriage, when ſhe went to take the air; and ſhe had failed of relief from the advice of two of the moſt eminent phyſicians in London, who had pronounced it an Aſcites, with encyſted water. Happily they were too liberal-minded to ſet their faces againſt the remedy, as ſome others have ſince done, becauſe it was not of their acquaintance. This lady followed the directions of the Recipe very exactly, and was reſtored to health in a few months.

These ſucceſſes induced the lady, at whoſe deſire it is publiſhed, to recommend the remedy with avidity whenever occaſion offered; and it has pleaſed God to crown her endeavours with ſuch wonderful ſucceſs, that ſhe thinks ſhe may venture to affirm, that ſhe has never known it fail to cure, when taken according to the Recipe, and while there was any degree of ſtrength remaining; and that it is almoſt as certain a ſpecific

for the Dropſy, as the Bark is for the Intermitting Fever.

It is but juſt to confeſs, that it is not a new Recipe. It is to be found in Lemery's Recueil de Secrets, Paris 1740, tom. i. p. 192, where it has long lain too much neglected; and perhaps the candid and unprejudiced practitioner might find many ſalutary helps in the collections of that great chymiſt. But the great powers of a few capital medicines have led phyſicians to neglect and explode the uſe of almoſt every other. Perſiſting in the trial of remedies, which they have ſometimes found ſucceſsful, and the efficience of which they can ſcientifically trace, they do not like to meddle with ſuch as cure they do not know how, let their efficacy be ever ſo well, and often proved by the unlearned. A gentleman was adviſed by his phyſician not to take our remedy, becauſe it would be too heating for him. Another was told, that it would be too violent in its operation. The lady who has ſo often adminiſtered it, has never heard any complaint of its heating; and, excepting in a late caſe, that of a lady whom it was thought to purge too much, its operation has always been very gentle, and it has cured with ſcarcely

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any ſenſible increaſe of evacuation. The lady has given it to a woman with child, whom it cured of the Dropſy, and ſhe came ſome months after to return thanks, with a healthy child in her arms. It has ſometimes cauſed a ſomewhat uneaſy ſenſation on the day on which it was taken; but this has happened to but very few out of many, and has never been more than might very patiently be borne.

A GENTLEMAN, far gone in a Dropſy, was attended by two very eminent phyſicians, who permitted him to take the Broom-Seed and Oil; but they gave him the firſt every day, and the latter only once in three days. In a very ſhort time it evacuated a great quantity of water, and greatly reduced his ſize: but an inflammation appearing in or near one of his feet, it was thought right to diſcontinue the uſe of the remedy. He filled again, and the event was unhappy. Another gentleman, who took the Broom-Seed, could not be prevailed on to take the Oil. He complained that the Broom-Seed occaſioned a great weight and uneaſineſs in his bowels; for which he took, on the intermediate days, a purging potion, and would not be perſuaded not to do ſo. In this caſe alſo it was, as there

was

was too much reaſon to fear it would be, unſucceſsful.

From the failure of the Broom-Seed in the two laſt caſes, there is reaſon to think that the Oil is an abſolutely neceſſary part of the remedy. If the patient cannot poſſibly take ſo large a quantity of Oil, perhaps the beſt thing he can do will be to take every day half a drachm of the Broom-Seed, and one ounce of Oil; but the proportion of the latter to the former muſt not be abated.

Tho' this remedy moſt commonly proves gently laxative. yet it has ſometimes occaſioned coſtiveneſs. This complaint has been removed by rubbing the ſtomach and belly with * olive-oil, made a little warm by putting it to ſtand in hot water. But this does not always give relief; and if it ſhould not, a clyſter may be uſed, which

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* In an alarming obſtruction of the bowels, attended with a cholic, which had laſted three days, relief was obtained in leſs than a quarter of an hour, by rubbing the ſtomach and bowels with gooſe-greaſe. The patient was not dropſical, and had not taken our medicine. After the uſe of the oil, or of the gooſe-greaſe, a flannel ſhould be laid on the parts.

may be made of warm water, with a tea-ſpoonful of common ſalt, or with a table-ſpoonful of caſtor-oil. This remedy, however, ought not to be uſed without urgent neceſſity, and is only preferable to a purging draught, which, by carrying off the medicine, might prevent its efficacy.

If the patient is too weak to uſe other exerciſe after taking the powder, the body and limbs may be rubbed with a flannel, from time to time, during the hour and half, giving reſt at intervals, according to the ſtrength; and indeed the practice of this exerciſe for ſome minutes, every night and morning, may be of great help.

The quantities directed in the Recipe have been given alike to men and to women; and there has never been found reaſon to think, that they were too little for the one, or too much for the other.

It is hardly neceſſary to ſay, that all the ingredients ought to be the beſt that can be had, particularly the Oil, which, if in the leaſt rancid, might be hurtful. In England, it has generally been given in mountain-wine. The

Broom-Seed may always be had at Covent-Garden. To powder the Broom-Seed, lay it, for a little while, at a reaſonable diſtance before the fire, and then grind it in a coffee-mill, and ſift it through a gauze ſieve, or a piece of muſlin. Put it to ſteep in a phial, and cork it.

THE Dropſy of the breaſt aſſumes the appearance of, and is often miſtaken for the Aſthma. This very dangerous diſeaſe, the Broom-Seed and Oil have cured in a time ſo ſhort, that thoſe wondered, who had before ſeen many of its great effects.

ALL who are afflicted with any kind of Dropſy, and into whoſe hands this may happen to fall, are moſt earneſtly entreated to make trial of it for a fortnight; in which time, it is hoped, it will ſpeak for itſelf, and afford encouragement to perſevere in the courſe. It muſt be acknowledged, that an unknown Recommender wants himſelf a recommendation: but it is offered to conſideration, that no private intereſt is ſerved by the publication; for the truth of which, Mr. DODSLEY, the Publiſher, is appealed to.

FINIS.